Everyone starts somewhere

これはパロディです。

# RETROTYPE

## The Parody gunpla zine

オッドワイヤー 1

Special price FREE

In this zine

What is gunpla\
What the hell is a grade\
Tools you actually need\
Kits to start with\

+

A few tricks, tips and tools. All with example pics

## Techniques!

What dem cutters do tho?
Sanding; IT'S NOT ABOUT PRESSURE!
Avoiding stress marks

## Random stats! Where to buy!

Trusted and community favorite import stores.
Not affiliated don't even say I'm shilling.

Remember, GUNPLA IS FREEDOM!
Have fun your way.
Don't chase Insta & Pintrest posting.

# THE BASICS

## Getting started on your Gunpla Addiction

Image source

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM
0083:Stardust Memory

2305.OW/RN - RT- [LINKIN PARK CO NOT INCLUDED]

GUNPLA®
MADE IN JAPAN

# GUNDAM PLASTIC MODELS

Kit:
MG 1/100
RX-78-2 v3.0

Released:
AUGUST 10, 2013

GUNPLA are models of Mobile suits, Mecha and robots based on the GUNDAM series and Devloped by Bandai, now Bandai Spirits.

From 1980 to today, this series has been host to nearly every mecha featured in the anime series.

This term is often used in place of PLAMO or Plastic Models.
More general kits from various other media like Evangelion, Armored Core, ZOIDs and even Pokemon.

## TRUSTED US RETAILERS

**GUNDAMPLACESTORE** —
Cool reward program with good shipping times
GA Based location

**USAGUNDAMSTORE** —
Frequent discounts with good shiping prices
FL Based Location

**NEWTYPE.US** —
Great customer service and a great selection
Cali Based Location

**GUNDAMPLANET** —
Huge selection well beyond just Gunpla
NJ Based Location

**LEAPINGPANDAHOBBIES** —
Insane selection with competitive pricing
MI Based Location

These are known stores trusted by the community and myself with good prices, shipping and quality.

There are plenty more options out there like HLJ for direct imports and more. Bandai even has an official Amazon store front.

### Number of Models

HG: 440
RG: 43
MG: 394
PG: 30
SD: 260
SD2: 450
RE/100: 16

[Source: dalong.net*]

As of writing, over 1,500 kits have been released.

Between 1980 and 1984, Bandai had sold over 100 MILLION units.
By 2021, over 714 MILLION kits had been sold world wide.

Part of the appeal of Gunpla across the world is, without a doubt, due to how they are both accessible and offer creative freedom to builders.

No glue, easy to build, yet hard to master when it comes to customization.
The barrier to entry is extremely low, but as a hobby it offers a near-infinite ceiling in skill and learning.

These numbers have more than likely exploded since, thanks to multiple new successful anime series coupled with a growth in hobbies as an interest following the events of 2019/2020. The lockdowns really did wonders in introducing loads of new people to the joys of plastic crack. Myself included.
We don't talk about my own personal gunpla graveyard or unfinished kits...

That said, remember that perfection isn't the goal. It's fun.
As corny as that sounds, it's really that simple.
A common phrase in the western enthusiast community is "Gunpla is Freedom".

That phrase is a play on where Gundam gets it's namesake, Gun + Freedom. (Yes really)
And a constant reminder that this hobby isn't about perfection. It's about finding enjoyment your own way. Be it ripping open a kit and blasting through it without a care in an hour or spending hundreds of hours on painting, scribing, detailing, customizing parts, and dioramas. All of this is valid and celebrated in Gunpla.

*Counted by hand as the site does not offer a solid, direct number that I can find.

Grades act as both a designation of scale and complexity.
I avoid using the term "difficulty" when explaining this to new builders, as they all are put together in roughly the same way.

No Glue. Separating parts from runners. Possible sanding. Snap fit.

Grades are more so a reflection of detail and the time you may want to put in to reach a complete, box-matching scale model.

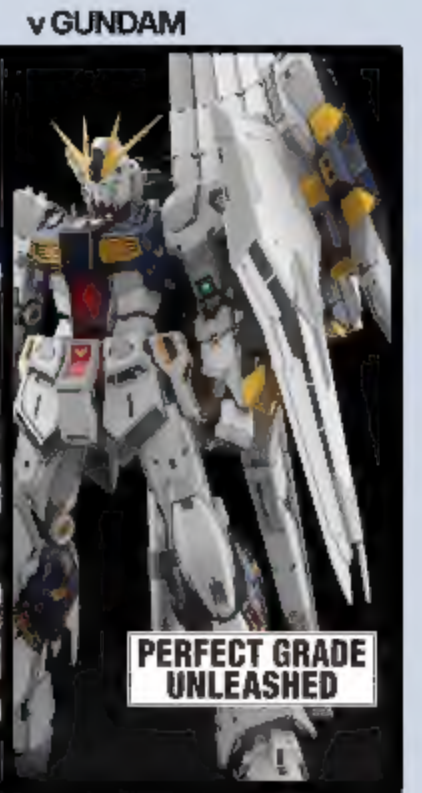
RG and PG are the exceptions to this mindset, as both can be very complex and challenging due to part numbers and complexity of design.

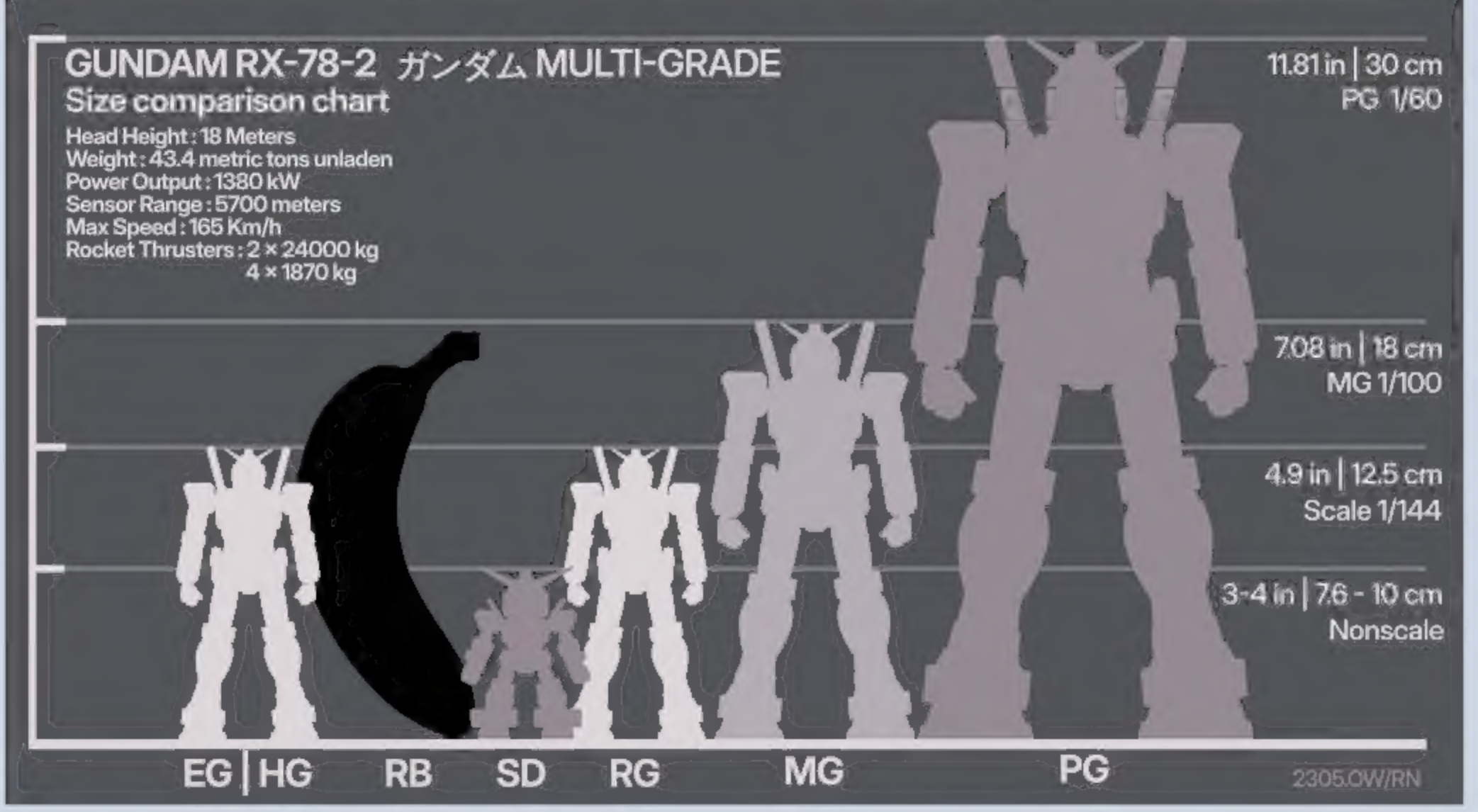
Scale is a division of the real deal mobile suit!
1/100 = 100 Models stacked would equel the height of the Gundam you are building!

Newer kits are pushing details, gimmicks, and mechanics constantly while still remaining friendly and true to their grade designations.
As such, I always recommend newer kits to new builders.

HG and EG being go to suggestions.

# GRADES

| GAT-X105 Strike | POLICE ZAKU | RX-78-2 v2.0 | TALLGEESE III | v GUNDAM |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |   |
| **Entry Grade** | **High Grade** | **Real Grade** | **Master Grade** | **Perfect Grade** |
| Scale 1/144 | Scale 1/144 | Scale 1/144 | Scale 1/100 | Scale 1/60 |
| Complexity ★☆☆☆☆ | Complexity ★★☆☆☆ | Complexity ★★★★☆ | Complexity ★★★☆☆ | Complexity ★★★★★ |
| Fun, Easy, and Fast. Low cost and great for practice. | Anime accurate. Good detail. Great mechanics and gimmicks. | Amazing detail. Full inner frame. Great color seperation. Small parts. | Large with Great detail. Perfect for customizing. Many variants. Loads of gimmicks. | Insane detail. Very large. MANY parts. Unrivaled mechanics and gimmicks. |



03

# BEGINNER TOOLS
## Cut the confusion

When looking for tools to start with, it can feel a bit overwhelming. I certainly went through the wringer with Reddit suggestions, algo recommendations, and YouTube videos/reviews.
Insert: *THIS is the best glass file EVER! Video #24485*

Realistically, you don't need more than what you see here for basic gunpla and plamo building.
A good set of nippers. Some sanding paper or sponges.
That's it. You can even complete an EG with literally nothing.
Anything other than these two things is more so quality of life or needed for more complex tasks like customizing.

That's not to say these extra, hobby-focused tools aren't useful. It's just that a lot of them sell an answer to a problem that is barely there. And, in some cases, are straight-up, marked-up, rebranded common items you can find in the makeup aisles of dollar stores.
Ahem a certain grey and black brands stuff~

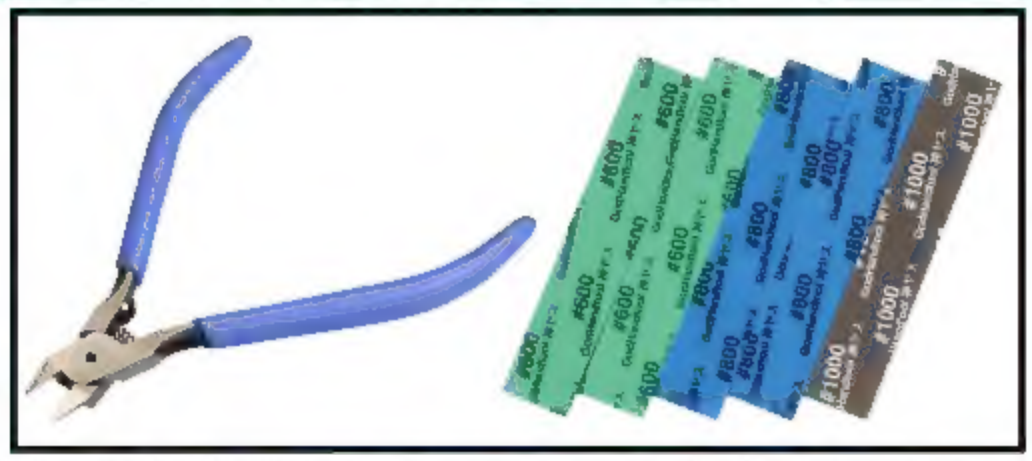
Even cheaper options I've owned have actually outlived more expensive tools.

TOP: TC-S01 Departure Tool Set
BOTTOM: Apex Hobby Tool Set
I would recommend both of these starter sets if you feel overwhelmed by choices online.

## TOOLS YOU ACTUALLY NEED

### Single Blade Nippers

### Sanding Tools



Single blade nippers create flush and neat cuts. Helping to prevent stress to the plastic and avoid marks on parts. Sanding tools like sponges or sticks in at least #400, #600, #800 and #1000 for smoothing down nubs and parts after cutting. ▲

### Gundam markers

Bonus for Gundam Markers.
They help create panel lines and detail after model construction. Pencils and panel liner can also work and will be shown later.◀

### Tweezers

A good, pointy set of tweezers can help keep you sane when dealing with stickers and decals. ▶

## Great Brands
## Trusted by many

DSPIAE

MADWORKS

GodHand

MR. HOBBY

stedi

TAMIYA

Each brand name listed here comes recommended from both the community and my own personal experience.

**DSPIAE:** Funny name but has put out quality tools at good prices for years now. They have two great sanding kits that will last for many builds.

**GODHAND:** *THE* name in the JP hobby scene.
Pricey but very high quality tools.

**STEDI:** Smaller brand, often found on Amazon but has some decent stuff. If you're on a budget and spot these, I wouldn't say no.

**MADWORKS:** Another brand known for good quality, no-fuss tools and supplies. Chisles and sandpaper often sold out for a reason.

**MR. HOBBY:** Like GodHand, they are one of THE names in the industry. Unlike Godhand, they offer really good quality stuff at a very friendly price.

**TAMIYA:** ALL HAIL TAMIYA PAINTS.

## Household Items

Many common and cheap items can be a big help in gunpla.
Often overlooked for other things or, just sold to you with a different label and marked up.
I'm not here to slam any companies in particular but, this is a thing you'll notice once you start looking for it.
You more than likely have these things sitting around the house or can find them at the dollar store.
Trust me when I say, you don't need to pay much for the same exact end result.
And honestly? Sometimes with better end results thanks to proper technique.

▲ $1 soft bristle bamboo toothbrush.
Good for cleaning tools and dust from parts or sand paper.

▲ 10 for $10 Nail buffers.
Soft on one side, slick on the other.
Perfect at finishing parts after sanding

▲Toothpicks
$1 for 2 containers
Great for adjusting stickers and decals on parts.

## Cheap is good

Need a runner holder and organizer?
Use the box! ▶
It's almost like it was designed to fit the dimensions of the runners it comes with~

Just organize the runners by letter and you're done.
You don't need to go spend money on something to clutter up your area with!

I won't tell you not to, I have one. But it's more so usefull when building big like MG or RG. Kits that have a lot of common runners you're going to be bouncing between and just having them available quickly and cleanly is a nice QOL feature.

But unless you plan to build often or en mass, I would honestly just use the box the kit came in.
And I still do more often than not.

05 作品

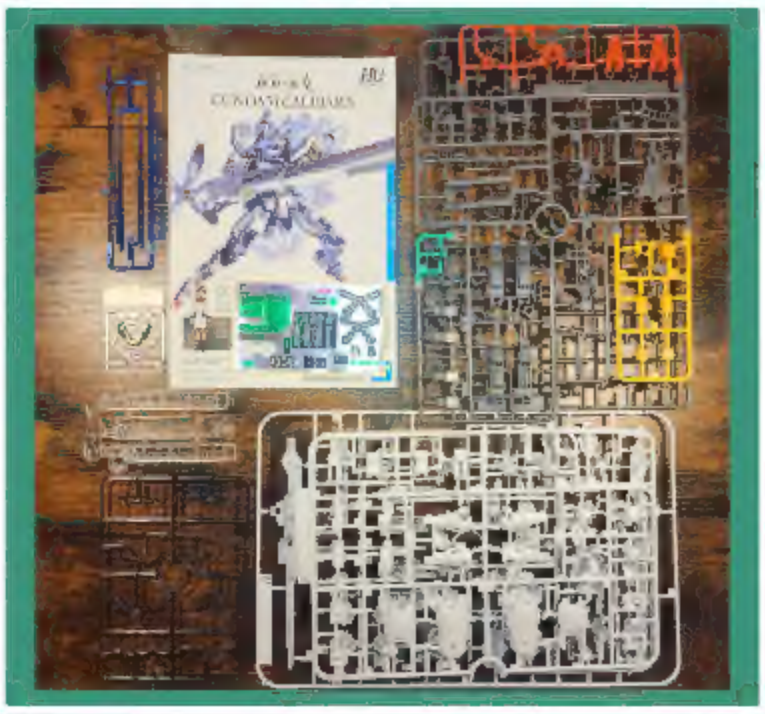
# BEGINNER BUILD
# The First of Many

In keeping with my suggestion of newer kits, I'll be building Gundam Calibarn featured in The Witch From Mercury.

In this section I'll be using only the basic, low cost tools outlined for beginners and the common items I've listed. Nothing fancy or expensive!

Be sure to RTFM of your chosen kit.

## Step Zero



Check the contents and thumb through the manual.

Holding your model nippers like this helps prevent fatigue and gives you lots of control over the pressure you apply when cutting.

Remember, we want the tool to do the work!

These cost only $17!

## The First Cuts

1: Using your nippers, take the part off the runner by cutting AWAY from it. *NOT CLOSE YET.*

Some people say this isn't necessary. And in some cases, sure! If you know the cut is going to be hidden with an Under Gate or goes inside another part, you can get away with that.

Most of the time though, the people that ignore this step have blisters and marks on their builds~

Taking the extra moment is worth the result.

2: Once removed, make your next cuts closer to the part but *NOT FLUSH WITH THE PART.*

This is step two in preventing stress marks as pressure is less likely to travel toward the part.

Again, take your time. It's not a race. Relax and get into the flow.

CUT

PAY ATTENTION

DO NOT CUT

USE EITHER

MAKE MULTIPLE

## Sanding

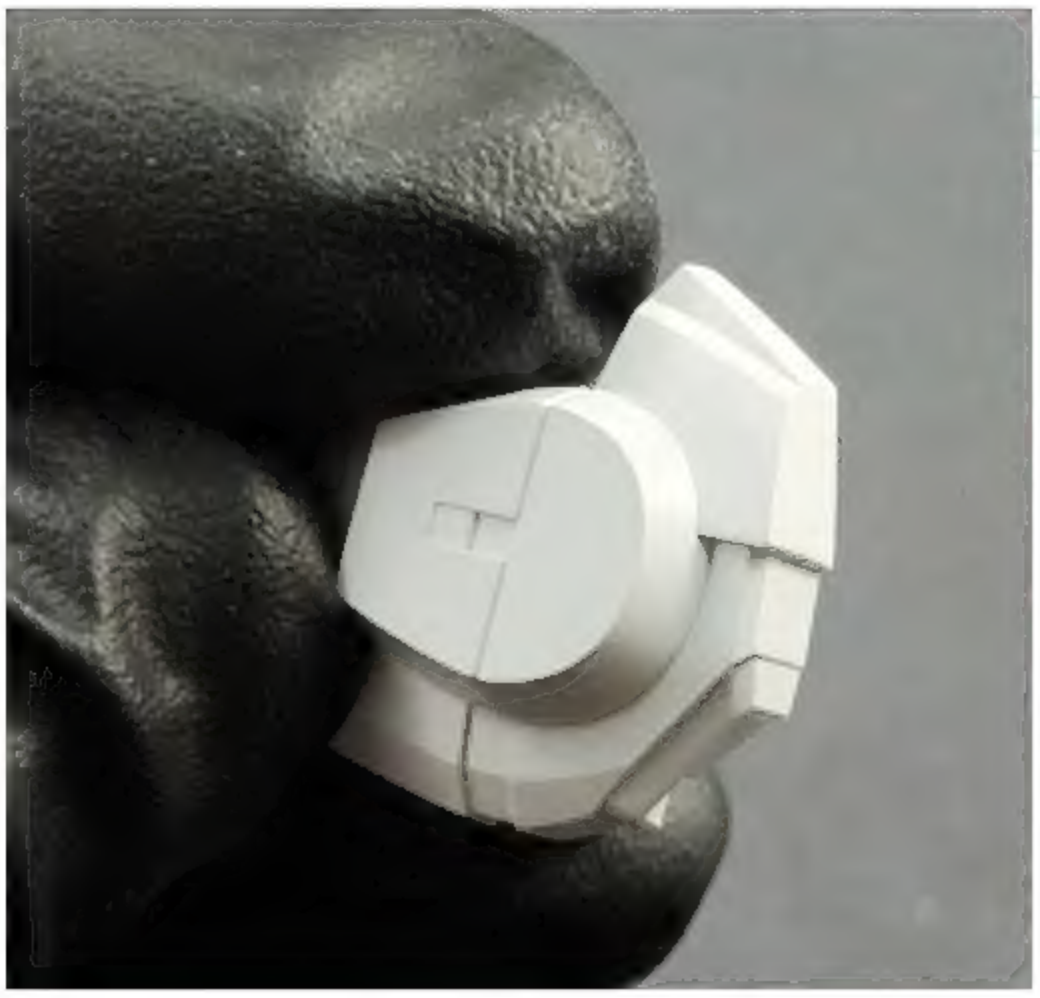
3: Starting with your lowest grit, begin sanding *GENTLEY*.
**Let the tool do the work!**
As you get closer, use higher and higher grits.
#1000+ when on the part.

#400 // #600 // #800
Work your way down with little to no pressure.

#1000
Close to the part now.Time to use higher grit!

#1200
Finished with no marks!

## Clean Up



4: Gentley brush away dust with the soft toothbrush or a makeup brush.

5: Buff! This just smooths out any sanding marks left behind

6: Repeat!

## Smoooooooth

A Nice clean part!

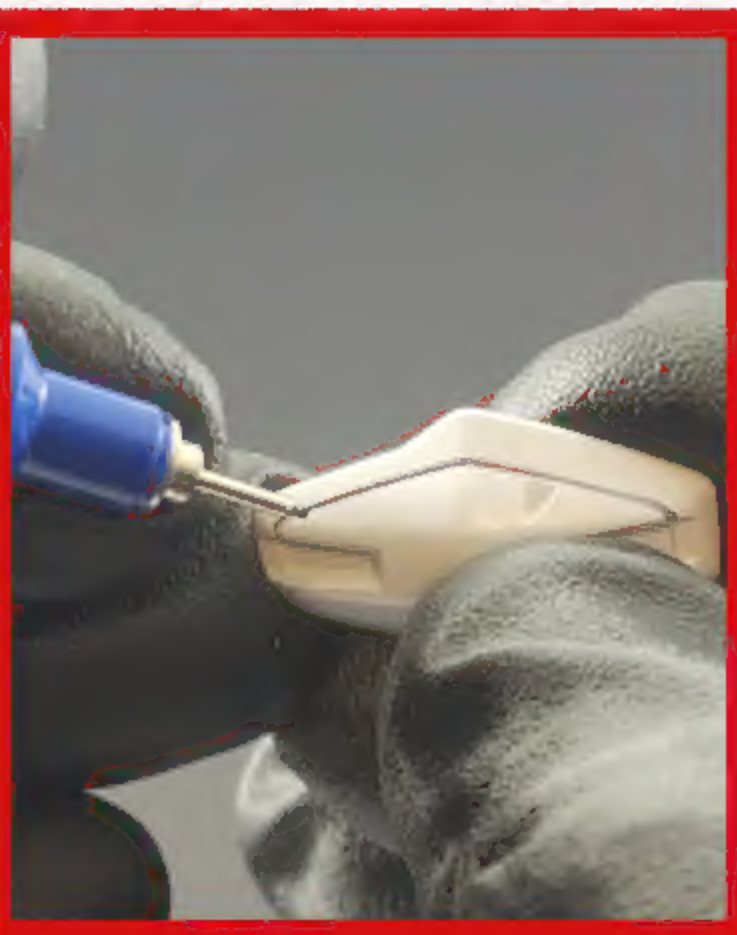
Take your time and enjoy some music or a show.
Let it be a relaxing process and don't force anything.

07

# FINISHING DETAILS

It's All In The Little Things

## PANEL LINING MADE EASY PROCESS AND TOOLS



### DETAIL TOOLS

-BEGINNER-
- Gundam Pens
- Gundam Markers
- Pencils
- Erasers
- Q-Tips
- Alcohol

-ADVANCED-
- Panel Liner
- Q-Tips
- Lighter Fluid (yep)
- Paper Towels

- Using Gundam pens or pencils, you can create depth, shadow, and part separation pretty easily.

Simply run the pen along a groove to fill it in. Going over a couple of times doesn't hurt!

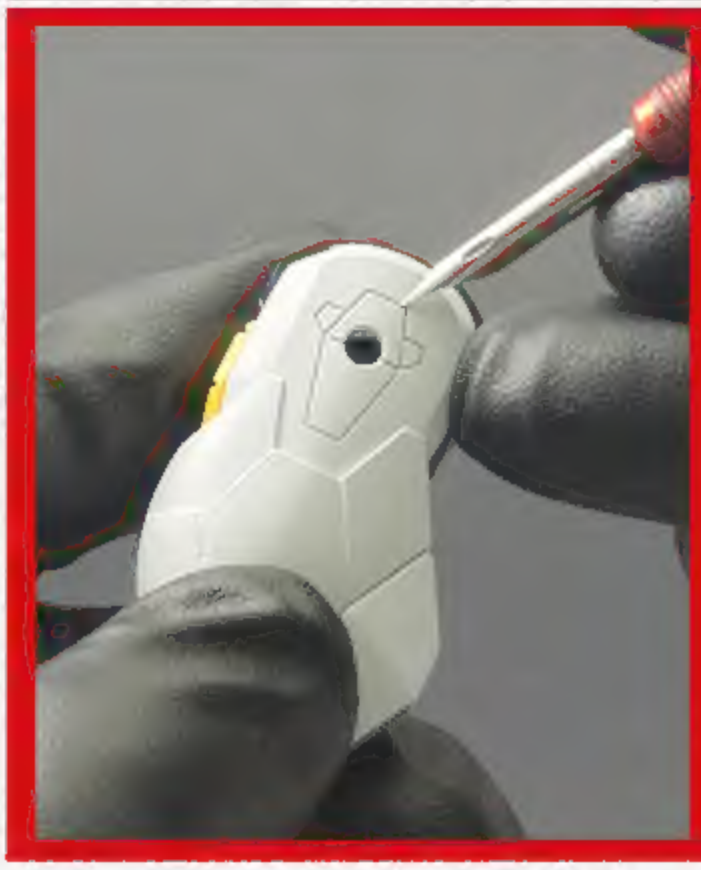
Follow with an eraser or even your finger to wipe away any excess ink from the raised areas.

If you find yourself needing finer control over the end result. A little bit of rubbing alcohol and a tight cotton swab or the edge of a paper towel can help you clean up with sharper lines.

- Dip the swab into alcohol or acrylic thinner.
- Wipe it almost dry onto a paper towel.
- Carefully go over your line or along edges.

The swab being tightly bound will prevent it from going into the panel line and removing ink and paint.

### Tamiya Panel liner + Dispiae Panel Lining Pen



This is my preferred way of detailing parts. Gives LOTS of control and ends in extremely sharp lines.
Not much ink is needed thanks to SCIENCE. With capillary action, the ink is drawn throughout the groove, filling it.
A cotton swab follows with a little bit of Zippo lighter fluid on it to clean up overrun.

Remember, you will mess up! That's perfectly normal and part of the process of getting better.

Just clean up the part with rubbing alcohol and try again!

Learning along the way is part of the fun in Gunpla.

# COMPLETED BUILD

Prototype Space Mobile Suit ▼

## X-EX01 Gundam Calibarn High Maneuverability Mode

### There we have it. Our completed HG kit!

Is it perfect? NOPE!
But that's not the point.
I had a great weekend putting this kit together with some music and movies. Learned a bit more about the mobile suit in the process and gained a new appreciation for its appearence in the series finale through its mechanics and gimmicks.

Now I get to look forward to further customizing and detailing it with things like water decals (already spotted a G-Rework set) and a bit of paint for color separation.
But that's me and how I enjoy the freedom of the hobby.

From here you can just enjoy it as is, and that's entirely valid and encouraged. It's not about what I make out of what you also have. It's about enjoying what you made because as always,

**Gunpla is FREEDOM.**

Collecting the trimmed nubs can be a fun way to create a living piece of personal history.

Recycling them otherwise is the only correct option.
I will find you if you don't.

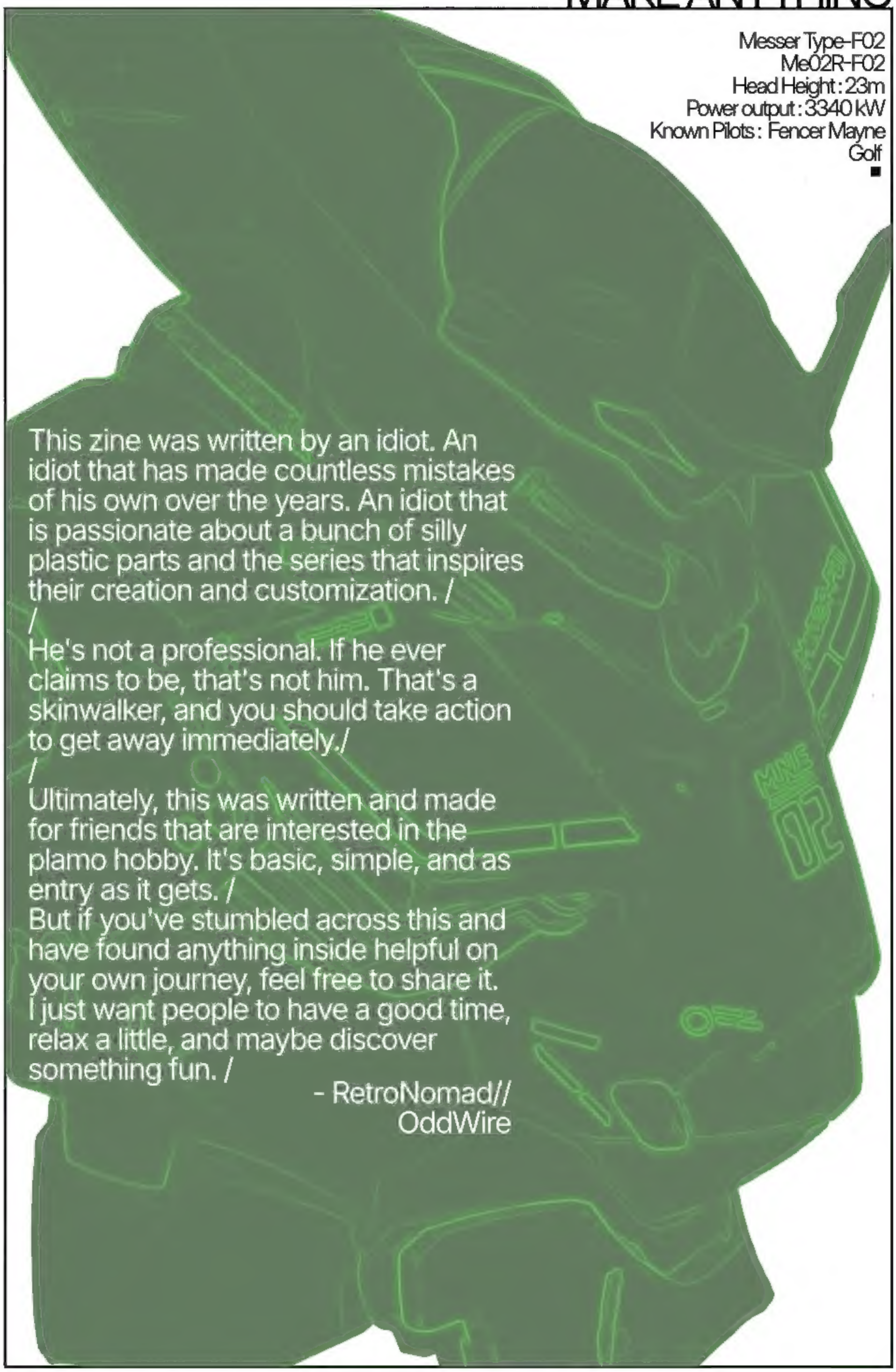
I like to keep all my extras and a couple runners for color-matching repair goo in case anything happens.

Storing them together in a freezer bag minimizes clutter and lets me keep the collection in a larger kits box for safe storage.

### A FEW FINAL TIPS

Those nail buffers make mistake cleanup EXTREMELY simple.
Absolute frustration saviors when dealing with stray ink or panel liner. Try using them on anything messy.

# MAKE ANYTHING


Messer Type-F02
Me02R-F02
Head Height : 23m
Power output : 3340 kW
Known Pilots : Fencer Mayne
Golf
This zine was written by an idiot. An idiot that has made countless mistakes of his own over the years. An idiot that is passionate about a bunch of silly plastic parts and the series that inspires their creation and customization. /
/
He's not a professional. If he ever claims to be, that's not him. That's a skinwalker, and you should take action to get away immediately./
/
Ultimately, this was written and made for friends that are interested in the plamo hobby. It's basic, simple, and as entry as it gets. /
But if you've stumbled across this and have found anything inside helpful on your own journey, feel free to share it. I just want people to have a good time, relax a little, and maybe discover something fun. /
- RetroNomad//
OddWire

There is no Kofi, patreon or insta to shill. Go make something.
Teach others. Enjoy yourself.

RETROTYPE ZINE ODDWIRE

THIS ZINE MADE POSSIBLE WITH LOTS OF ARIZONA RX JUICE
KLAUS VEEN & RIDGE RACER OST ON ENDLESS LOOPS.

IF IT'S NOT OBVIOUS
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M DOING